

CLAIMS

1. Alert apparatus for providing an alert indication directed to a user thereof; the apparatus being incorporated into or being for attachment to fastener equipment for securing an item, wherein said apparatus comprises:

first and second elements, which are moveable together and apart, the item being in a secure position when the first and second elements are together, and at least one of said elements including a bell having a clapper or ball for providing an alert indication directed to the user when the element is moved;

wherein movement of said clapper or ball is suppressed whenever the first and second elements are at or adjacent one another thereby suppressing the alert indication.

2. Alert apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the fastener equipment is for securing an aperture in an item closed, and said first and second elements are moveable together for closing the aperture and moveable apart for opening the aperture.

3. Alert apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the fastener equipment is for securing first and second members together, and said first and second elements are moveable together for attaching said first and second members and moveable apart for detaching said first and second members.

4. Alert apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said elements has magnetic means for suppressing said alert indication by means of magnetic force.

5. Alert apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said elements has mechanical means for suppressing said alert indication by means of mechanical action.

6. Alert apparatus according to claim 1, wherein both said elements are arranged to provide an alert indication.

7. Alert apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said elements can be connected together by means of a magnetic force.

8. Alert apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said elements can be connected together by means of a surface fastener or a buckle.

9. Alert apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said elements is connectable to a slider of a slide fastener that is incorporated in a wearable or portable item.

10. Alert apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said first element is connectable to a first slider, and said second element is connectable to a second slider.

11. Alert apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first element is connectable to a slider of a slide fastener that is incorporated in a wearable or portable item, and said second element can be disposed on said wearable or portable item in a fixed position relative to said item.

12. Alert apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said slide fastener is a zip fastener.

13. Alert apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said item is a portable item or a wearable item.

14. Alert apparatus for providing an alert indication directed to a user thereof; the apparatus being incorporated into or being for attachment to fastener equipment for closing an aperture in an item, wherein said apparatus comprises:

first and second elements, which are moveable together for closing said aperture and apart for opening said aperture, and at least one of said elements including a bell having a clapper or ball for providing an alert indication directed to the user when the element is moved;

wherein movement of said clapper or ball is suppressed whenever the first and second elements are at or adjacent one another thereby suppressing the alert indication.